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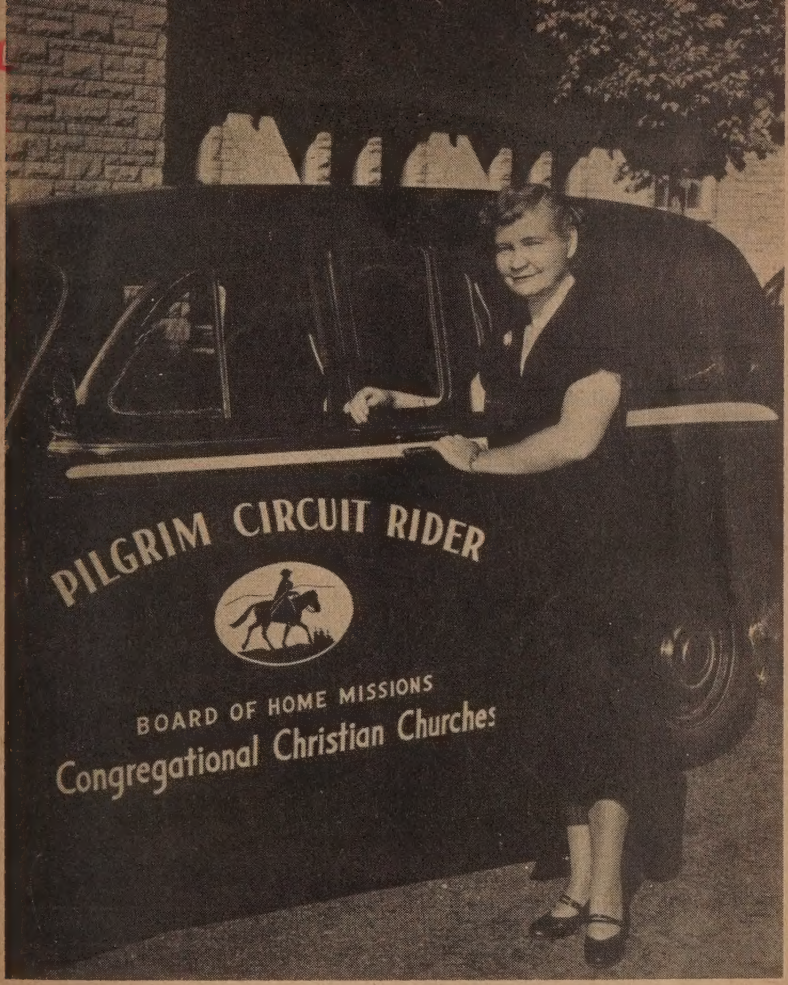

Miss Lella Anderson - Pilgrim Circuit Rider

CONGREGATIONAL KANSAS

JANUARY • 1954

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Cover Picture
Lady Circuit Rider On Wheels

This is the most recent description given to the work Miss Leila Anderson, Congregational Christian minister and educator, is engaged in for the next three years. She is working from coast to coast in a specially equipped stationwagon, the "Pilgrim Circuit Rider." This stationwagon, a recent Home Mission Project, was purchased in Garden City, Kansas, through Mr. Orville Nanninga. The Kansas Pilgrim Fellowship gave the first substantial contribution toward its purchase at Camp Wa-Shun-Ga in 1952. Miss Anderson has recently completed a trip around the world visiting many mission stations.

Regional Meetings on C.S.A.

Topeka — February 18

Twenty one-day regional meetings are being set up across the United States for a study of the best ways and means of implementing the report of the Board of Review of the Activities of the Council for Social Action. Kansas has been asked to arrange such a meeting in Topeka for February 18.

By adjusting the Thursday Morning hours of the Ministers' Convocation, the meeting can be held immediately following the convocation program from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., on the 18th, thus saving much travel and expense. The meeting will be held in the drawing room at Benton Hall on the Washburn Campus and lunch will be served there to all making advance reservations.

Attending will be the Conference Board of Trustees, Association Registrars, leaders in Laymen's Fellowship, Women's Department and Pilgrim Fellowship, Conference Social Action committee and other interested persons.

Questions to be considered include:

What kind of help do churches, ministers and members need in dealing with social problems, issues and institutions?

To what extent are service type activities, institutes, leadership training, consultative services needed?

Are Social Action and Christian Community adequate publications?

How should Social Action cultivate public opinion?

Should the churches and C S A. seek to influence legislation? If so, how?

What is "substantial unanimity"?

On what issues should Congregationalism speak in the near future?

What size C.S.A. program are our churches willing to support?

Town & Country Church Conference

The 13th annual conference sponsored by Kansas State College is being held on the campus at Manhattan, January 13 and 14. Outstanding in the leadership is Dr. Marvin T. Judy, of the Perkins School of Theology of S.M.U., Dallas, Texas. Programs were made available to our ministers by the Rev. Louis Poppe, Conference Chairman of our Town and Country Committee.

CONGREGATIONAL KANSAS

Vol. 16 **No. 1**

Entered as second class matter at Topeka, Kansas, April 12, 1951. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917 authorized January 11, 1923. Issued monthly except July and August at Topeka, Kansas by the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference.

Editorial and Executive Offices
923 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas
Editors
Supt. and Mrs. L. M. Rymph
Club rate — 50 cents
Single subscription — 75 cents

Reflections on the New Year

Theodore N. Goodale

I am not of the number of those who make light of old-year repentance or New Year's resolutions. I would be glad to have people live so that they need not repent nor make resolutions of amendment. But I have not had the good fortune to become acquainted with any considerable number of people to whom repentance and amendment were not in order. Those who have had the best of intentions have committed follies and made mistakes.

We are to be grateful for anything that will bring us to serious reflection and nobler purposes. Some of us have more clearly seen the shining upward way in the dark night of bereavement, even as Jacob saw the celestial ladder in the dungeon of night and of exile. To most of us the closing hours of an old year are fraught with solemnity and inward questionings. I rejoice that this is so. Was it not Browninog who said that we are baffled, to fight better?

I learned a while ago of a child who brought home a school report card with marks high in everything but conduct. When the mother questioned the child he answered, "You know, Mother, conduct is my most difficult subject!" Well, I think conduct is the most difficult subject for all of us. There is that in human nature which leads even the best of us astray. But when we add to this self-defeating element of our nature the moral uncertainties of the old year, we are indeed sorely beset, and even having embraced the Christian way, we are assaulted and at times driven off our path by the moral confusion of the times.

Sometimes the cartoonist reflects our life with photographic accuracy. In today's paper I see a cartoon picturing a young man who evidently has captured a young lady's affection, because she stands expectantly beside him as he replies to her father, "I make a hundred and fifty bucks a week. What do you care whether I got character?"

We smile at that, but it is sinister at second glance. It says if only we have enough things, we can get by. It says integrity, understanding, forgiveness, purity, and faith really do not matter. Watch our contemporary life and note how the emphasis is on that hundred and fifty bucks a week, and not first on the character of the life and the deed. We need to change that emphasis in the New Year, God willing.

Inevitably as we face the future we face this question: Is this man's world or is it God's world? There are no other claimants on the horizon. If it is simply man's world, then man's own desires are the ultimate authority. If it is God's world, then God's desires and God's affections must be the ultimate authority. Thus the Christian life is to be lived in the light of our relation to God, to whose family we belong and whose active agents amid human existence we are called to be.

It is only as men one by one, bring into the stream of the life of our secular

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society, the ideas and purposes of God exemplified by the Great Carpenter that our age will finally be saved from confusion. The Christian Way made known by Jesus is our best description and indication of the only possible future. If that be true, then the ultimate question for us as individuals and as a world is this: *Is this that I do the Christian thing?* If it is not, we are doomed to confusion. If it is, then our faces are set in the way the Creator would have life move, and we shall be lifted out of man's confusion into God's order.

"And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time." For Jonah and for us the New Year was created by God in order that we who fail might have a second chance. How terrible it would be for us as individuals and as nations, if those who closed their eyes to the lights of heaven could never see them again; if evil habits once formed could not be broken; and if those who lost the right road could never find it again. The borders of that blessed land run up to the homes and churches where we live, and God is there waiting to welcome us with that second chance.

God is calling us to avail ourselves of the opportunities of the New Year. Let us leave behind the ashes of burned out fires which tell of failure in the night and rise up and follow Christ in the dawn of a new day.

"He came to my desk with trembling lip;
His lesson was done.
'Have you a new page, dear teacher?
I have spoiled this one.'

I took that sheet all spoiled and blotted
And gave him a new one all unspotted,
And into his tired heart smiled,
'Do better now, my child.'

I came to the Throne with trembling heart;
The year was done.
'Have you a new year, dear Master?
I spoiled this one.'

He took the year all spoiled and blotted,
And into my tired heart smiled,
'Do better now, my child.'"

Downs Donations For Delmo

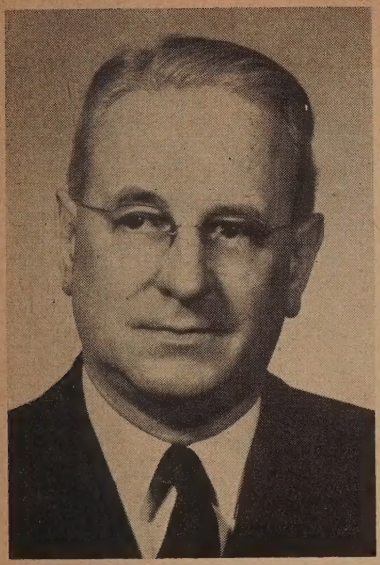
This was the motto used when the minister the Rev. John Schlarb asked all members of the congregation to join with the church school in making contributions of good used clothing, toys, games, books and school supplies for Delmo.

Kansas City Ruby

"Holly Sunday" was observed at Kansas City Ruby on December 6 opening the Christmas season. The chancel was decorated with sprigs of holly and evergreen during the singing of Christmas carols. Sentiment favored making it an annual event. On the afternoon of Dec. 6 a large group attended the reception honoring the Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Holmes and family, parsonage folks who began leadership in the church this fall.

Camp Leadership Course

An eight weeks course, carrying three hours of physical education credit, will be presented at Wichita University each Tuesday night beginning January 27. The course will be taught by the Rev. Melvin C. Dorsett of our Kiowa Church. Mr. Dorsett has been active in camping for more than 25 years. For a number of years he was a leader in the Cheley Camps and has since developed Skyline Camp north of Gunnison, Colorado.



Boynton Merrill, D.D.
Convocation Guest

Washburn Convocation Leadership

Heading the leadership for the Ministers' Convocation to be held on the Washburn Campus, February 16. 17 and 18 is the Reverend Boynton Merrill, D.D., minister for the past ten years of the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Merrill is an outstanding minister and author of note; having written "From Confusion to Certainty," "Arrows of Light," and "From Whence Cometh My Help." He had the council sermon at the International Council held in St. Andrews, Scotland. He has held many other important posts in the denomination and the larger fellowship. For his chapel presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday his subjects are, "The Sixth Sense" and "Templed Hills."

The Rev. Robert E. Allard, Dean of Students at Chicago Theological Seminary will tackle the general problem of the causes and effects of our predicament of churches and no ministers, giving special emphasis to strategies in the local church to interest young people in the calling of the ministry.

Dr. Leroy Evert Wright, professor of Practical Thealogy and Field Worker at Yankton College School of Theology will also give leadership speaking on recruiting, training and placing ministers, and serving as resource leader on the two afternoon panels on "Men from the Ministry." Dr. Wright is also a musician with wide experience in the field of Church Music and it is hoped there will be sometime for his leadership in this line.

Robert E. Allard, B.D.
Convocation Guest

State Superintendents and Other State Leaders

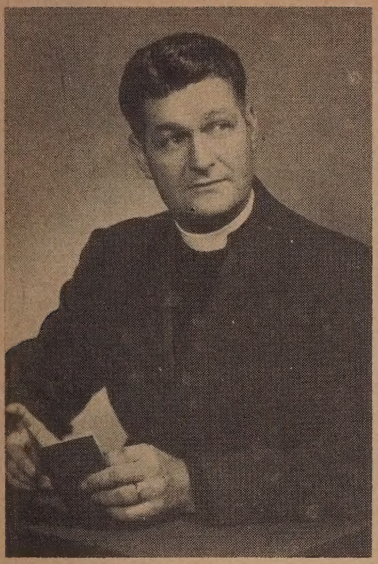
Front row, l to r., seated, Dr. L. Merle Rymph; Rev. Walter Schlaretzki, Illinois; Dr. W. Wilder Towle, Missouri; Rev. Thomas A. Goodwin, Minnesota; Rev. David Sandstrom, Missions Council, Chicago. Back row l to r., Rev. Judson E. Fiebiger, Iowa; Rev. Glenn E. Van Vactor, South Dakota; Rev. Edward S. Treat, North Dakota; Dr. Arthur W. Taylor, Nebraska; Rev. Royal J. Gibson, Central-South; Dr. Leon E. Grubaugh, Colorado; Rev. Coral F. Bader, Michigan; Rev. Andrew K. Craig, Iowa.

Kansas leadership on the program was listed in December. Anticipation runs high looking forward to the meals and fellowship at First Church, Central Church and the state parsonage. At least 24 out-of-town ministers will be housed and have breakfast at the Rymph's.

The program for Thursday, February 18 is being adjusted to make possible a one-day meeting, studying ways and means of implementing the Report of the Board of Review of the Activities of the Council for Social Action. Adjournment will be at 3:30 rather than noon on that day. Further information elsewhere in this issue.

Mid Winter Meetings at Cleveland

The above picture was taken at the Mid West Regional held in Wichita in October. All the Superintendents will begin sessions at Cleveland, Ohio, January 21, meeting with the Board of Home Missions to consider Church Extension plans. Simultaneous with the meeting of Superintendents will be meetings of the Directors of Christian Education, the Women's State Presidents, and the National Laymen's Fellowship. The Missions Council will have its meetings the 24th thru the 27th and the Executive Committee of the General Council on the 28th and 29th.



The Reverend Marvin D. Brown

Pastoral Changes

Marvin Brown to Santa Barbara

When a minister's record is such that he is called to a distant church without candidating, that is news. Marvin D. Brown completes 12 years of active ministry at Garden City Community Congregational Church, January 20 to accept a call to the First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara, California.

Marvin is a Kansas product, born in Rock Creek, Kansas, graduating from Washburn College in 1933. He earned his B.D. degree from Andover Newton in 1936 and his S.T.M. in 1939. While in the east he served assistant pastorates in Massachusettes at Framingham, Newton and Leominster Pilgrim. He had spent three summers in Student Summer service in our Pleasant Home Church. On completion of his work at Andover Newton he came directly to Garden City Church as its minister.

At Garden City, Marvin has had unusual success in strengthening the membership four-fold and in leading the church in a relocation move that involved the erection and dedication of one of the most lovely church structures in the state. His ministry has been filled with community service and regional distinction. His Religious News Broadcast over KIUL, his service to the Boy Scouts, and his leadership in the civic recreational group and religious activities of Garden City, have endeared him to the citizens of southwest Kansas.

His pastorate at Garden City was interrupted twice; first by a five year service as chaplain in the U.S. Army in the states, England, Africa and Europe, leaving the service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Since he has twice served as State Chaplain of the American Legion. In the year 1950-51 Mr. Brown was given a leave of absence to pursue his doctorate at Iliff. While in Denver he served as interim supply minister at First Plymouth.

Kansas will be wishing the best, not only to Marvin, but to all members of the Brown family as they leave the state. His wife, Thelma, Silvia Lee 17, and Dallas, 15, have each won a warm place in our Kansas fellowship.

Student Minister at Matfield Green

The Matfield Green Community Church is being served by Duane Bazil, a student minister enrolled at College of Emporia.

News From Neola

The Neola Church has preaching services once a month in charge of the Rev. H. T. Unruh, a Mennonite Minister, of North Newton, Kansas.

Dr. Robert B. Blyth

Dr. Robert Blyth comes to Wichita Plymouth Church as "ad interim minister" out of a wealth of experience in Congregational Church history. He was reared in Canada, and graduated from the Divinity School of McGill University. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Drury College.

Dr. Blyth was ordained in the Christion ministry in 1901, but has been preaching since 1897. His first pastorate was in British Columbia, Canada where he built the first Congregational church in that area. Since then he has held pastorates in Wisconsin, Missouri, Ohio and Iowa.

In 1947 Mr. Blyth made the decision to retire from active ministry, but as so often happens, he has been busier since retirement than in his earlier years. He has held interim ministeries in Florida, Missouri, Ohio, Iowa, New Jersey and now in Kansas.

Dr. and Mrs. Blyth flew into Wichita on December 2, and now live at 4203 E. Douglas. A reception was held in their honor on December 13 in Fellowship Hall of Plymouth Church.

Federation At St. Marys

The Congregational Church and the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Marys, effected a federation on November 29. The federation will meet in the Congregational Church Building. The Rev. Mr. Robert G. Hurdy of Topeka, serving the Lutheran Church, is called to serve the church. Each church continues its affiliated relationship with its denomination, but the program of work and worship are combined. The Sunday morning worship is held at 8:15 as Mr. Hurdy also serves a pastorate in Topeka.

Poetter Resigns At Leavenworth

The Rev. Mr. Howard H. Poetter has resigned the pastorate of the Salem Congregational Church at Leavenworth to become minister of the St. Pauls Evanlecial and Reformed Church at Lebanon, Illinois February first. The Congregational and E & R churches at Leavenworth federated their work under the leadership of Mr. Poetter in 1949. According to the terms of the federation the next minister is to be a Congregationalist. During the winter months the services are held in the Salem E & R church; the late spring and summer services are conducted in the Congregational building.

School of Ushering

Sponsored at our Russell Congregational Church by the Ministerial Association this school attracted more than 50 men on the evening of May 24. A delegation from our Osborne Church attended. Giving special leadership to the project were Mr. Kendall Irving and the Rev. Hans Poppe of the Russell Church.

Kansas Women's Department

Mrs. E. C. Garrison, President

In Memory

As evidence of the love and respect of those who knew them, the following names have been added to the Women's Department Memorial Roll of Honor.

Mrs. Winifred Davidson Lovan
By Plevna Cong'l Ladies Aid
Plevan Cong'l Sunday School

President's Message

Another year! A New Year. What are you going to do with it? Kansas will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. How proud we should be of the First Church in Lawrence. One historian places our Lawrence church as THE first church to be built in Kansas! Let us show our interest by having every church represented at our Centennial Conference in May.

Are you following Mrs. Lancaster's suggestions in her monthly devotional sheets? Oh, how we need to study our Bibles and how we need to pray. Have you read Dr. Laubach's book, "Prayer, the Mightiest Force in The World?" As church women, we should read and study the books suggested in our reading lists. Report books read to your Literature Chairman or your Secretary, so we may have a report for the annual reports.

We should familiarize ourselves with the United Nations. This may not be perfect, but it is up to each of us to help make it work. Pray daily for its success.

Don't forget your Woman's Gift. It is more important than ever before. There is so much need in the world and we have so much. Used clothing, used Christmas cards, with a Christian theme, church school literature, pictures and practically everything can be used according to Mrs. Ives, our Friendly Service Secretary. Speaking of Friendly Service, another tour is in the making to our southern missions. Many have expressed a desire to go. There is some thought of chartering a bus this year. The dates are April 20 to May 3; and under the direction of Miss Catton. This is an ideal trip for husband and wife. Give it your consideration. Also the LaForet meeting next August. All wonderful experiences in Christian fellowship and an opportunity to know more about Our Christian World Mission.

If you have not purchased your copy of a "Century of Congregationalism in Kansas," please contact your minister. Buy your copy NOW. If you are without a minister, write to your Conference Office.

Again I urge you to consider a gift to the Frank Korab Memorial Chapel. This is as you know, on the campus of Doane College, Crete, Nebr.

A Thank You Letter

"Dear Friends:

The gift scholarship which you awarded to me came as quite a surprise. The first thought I have is, how is it possible to convey to you the real and tangible way in which this answers heretofore unanswered questions. The resources of a seminary student are limited, of necessity, by the time-consuming requirements of graduate study. A limited budget is drawn, but scarcely at any time can the student see clearly where even this can be balanced. What is there to say, but thank you? Yet this leaves so much of my feeling

unexpressed, that I realize again that words are only symbols; Invaluable tools that they are to us in communication, yet there are times when being restricted to use of them, we can not express ourselves adequately.

Anyone who has made a decision to make full-time Christian Service his or her vocation, has, as I have, pondered many considerations in the long periods of meditative deliberation. Out of this, for me, came the realization that for life to have meaning and a goal, I should do nothing else. This is a personal decision, one which is a covenant made in communion with God. There is, of course, the influence of others; some through counselling, others through the inspiration, but the decision was not made by them. It is a good and satisfying experience to pursue an accomplishment of work committed to by a covenant communion with God, but we continue to live with other people. When you, as representing, these other people say in the form of a gift such as you have given me, though this was your decision, we want to be a part of the work to which you are dedicated; the effect can not be measured in terms of dollars.

What I have tried to say is that, tangibly this gift is helpful and appreciated for that. In addition, I realize that through it, other people are assenting to my decision, and have confidence in me. This is of incalculable worth.

Very sincerely yours,
Robert H. Nellis

Olathe Women

These faithful women meet each month, subscribe to Congregational Kansas and have completed many Friendly Service gifts including a comfort for Tongaloo and a tablecloth for Thorsby.

Women's Gift Dedication

As a part of the Morning Service at McPherson on November 15, a very impressive dedication of the Woman's Gift was held. In the picture, left to right are: Mrs. Will Clevenger, Mrs. Betty Provine, Mrs. George Lehmberg, President of Women's Union; Mrs. W. E. Lehmberg, Mrs. Chas. Alspaugh, Mrs. Will Mathes. Behind the pulpit is the Rev. Mrs. A. H. Bartter. The four women beside the Lehmberg's are chairmen of Women's Union Circles.

Woman's Board To Meet

On March 1 and 2 the members of the Kansas Women's Department board are scheduled to meet in Topeka at the home of Mrs. L. M. Rymph. Reports and plans for the year's work will be given with Mrs. E. C. Garrison, president, presiding. A courtesy luncheon by the Topeka women on the board will be served Monday noon.

Miss Pauline Bloomer will show slides and speak on her Peurto Rican trip at the evening session. Tuesday morning Miss Leila Anderson will speak and give leadership to the various departments of the work.

"A Prayer"

Every woman in this land
Has something precious in her hand
Something that will fill a need,
Blaze a trail, or plant a seed.
Then come, together let us lift
Unto the Lord, our WOMAN'S
GIFT. Amen

Kansas Pilgrim Fellowship

Roger Brown, President **Mike Walker, Secretary**

African Booth - Centralia
Bobby Fritch, left; Joyce Drinkwater

World Fair at Centralia

Through the combined efforts of both Junior High and Senior P.F. groups this activity was sponsored December 5. Display booths showed our mission work in South Africa, India, Mexico and the United States. Money making booths included a fish pond, gift table, homemade candy, fortune telling, plants and Christmas greens, baked goods and a snack bar. There was a mingling of cultures. Background music through the use of Spanish and Mexican records were played in the Mexican booth. Bobby Fritch (see picture) was the snake charmer for India. Christmas carols were played at the Christmas Green's table. Through this activity which was the Workday for Christ project, they also paid their Christian Action pledge and made a substantial contribution to their local church. Lots of hard work and a wonderful time was had by all. The entire church cooperated in supporting this very fine activity. Let's give them the official official for their success.

Council Grove

Junior High Pilgrims took orders for seventy-two dozen doughnuts which were made at the church and delivered. The proceeds will be used for camp.

Ottawa

Ottawa sponsored a candy sale at the Family Thanksgiving Festival November 22.

Lawrence

On November 29 the Seniors held a Thanksgiving Worship Service led by Martha Crosier and Sharon Starr. Following this service the group packed boxes for Korea. A songfest ended the evening's activities. Their sponsor is Mr. Walter Meserve. The Junior High group had a Christmas Fun Fest December 18.

Observe Youth Week - Jan. 31 - Feb. 7

Youth Week is the largest Protestant observance on our continent. It dates back to 1944 and is scheduled annually from the last Sunday in January through the first Sunday in February. The choice of this week grew out of recognition of February 2, 1881, the founding date of Christian Endeavor, celebrated for over thirty years by that organization. This week provides an opportunity for young people to give expression to their ideals and hopes. "Youth is a vibrant time of life — a growing, gaining, giving time. Christian young people of today who sincerely 'strive to know and dare to believe' long to express their faith — to reach out eager hands toward a world whose hope lies in Him. We urge Pilgrim Fellowship groups to

join other churches in their community in joint observances. "So Send I You" the theme is related to our overall study on "The Life and Task of the Church Around the World". If you have not yet used the materials recommended, the period following youth week would be a good time. Why not choose one of the following for study. Write Conference office for a loan copy or order from Pilgrim Press. For Senior Highs: "Where'er the Sun", "Forward Through the Ages", "A Ship Sets Sail", "Great Is The Company" and "Who?" For Junior Highs: "The Church We Cannot See", "Tumbleweed Series", and "Papi".

Sedgwick

This group now has an average attendance of twelve members. They recently celebrated their third anniversary with a weiner roast in Sedgwick Park. They had a food sale for their Workday for Christ project.

Topeka Central In Parade

"Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple" was the assignment given Central Pilgrims in the Community Christmas Parade in Topeka, December 8. This project called for teamwork on the part of the entire group which resulted in a beautiful white float. The Peeping Pilgrim reports that "it was fun stuffing napkins in the one hundred feet of chicken wire, and we all gained from another experience of working together on a worthwhile project."

Officer Reports

Garden City Seniors have elected John Austin, President; Pat Devolld, vice president, and Beverly Devolld, secretary.

Topeka Seaman Junior high officers are Verna Peterson, president; Judy Adams, vice president; Nancy Means, secretary, and Patsy Hammond, treasurer.

Workday For Christ Exceeds Last Year

As we go to press the total receipts for 1953 are $885.54 with several groups yet to report. The total for 1952 was $750.05. Thanks to many P.F.ers for such a good report.

For Better Youth Meetings

"Crossroad Decisions" booklet No. 4 is now available. $1.00 from Pilgrim Press.

"Thank You"

The Congregational Kansas staff takes this means of thanking Lenora, Topeka Seabrook and Topeka Central for their help in soliciting subscriptions. In most cases each member was assigned a portion of the church membership list to contact. Some of the young people went out after school and called in the homes. Others were contacted at church and in some cases by telephone. While the quota was not reached in every church there has been a tremendous increase in the subscriptions. Congratulations on a job well done P.F.ers.

Money Making Activities

Wichita Fairmount did such a good job making popcorn balls last year that they repeated the project again this year. Wichita Plymouth also repeated their Stover Christmas Candy Sale. We did not hear how many pounds they sold. Kansas City Welborn sold candy at their annual bazaar.

Russell

PFers invited their parents for a roundtable discussion at one of their regular meetings. They had a Christmas Party December 20.

Lenten Devotions For Young People

Order from Pilgrim Press at 5 cents each.

Christian Education

Pauline Bloomer, Director

Leila Anderson Here in March

The plan on which the "Pilgrim Circuit Rider" works under Miss Anderson's leadership is as old as the beginning of the United States. Then a circuit rider, equipped with a Bible and hymn book, traveled on horseback from church to church giving inspiration and instruction. (see cover page and story, page 2) Miss Anderson plans to be in Kansas March 2-15 and will be accompanied by two additional people in order to give broader emphasis to the work of our church. Miss Pauline Bloomer will meet with leaders of youth work and a leader from each association will help those interested in women's work and program resources. This is a new project of the Congregational Board of Home Missions financed by gifts from men, women and children of our denomination. Through the printed word, pictures, recordings, and various types of audio visual aids, Miss Anderson will help the churches learn how to build better church schools, raise money for worthy projects, improve worship services, and become better acquainted with the overseas work of our church. The itinerary is in process of being completed. As we go to press plans have been made to visit Wakefield, Plevna, Maize, Downs, Neola and Almena.

World Friendship In Action

Mrs. Jack Bates, Superintendent of Primary children, Topeka First, reports receiving letters of appreciation for Bibles and other teaching materials sent to our mission stations in Africa. One letter stated that most of all the children would like to "see the faces" of the children who sent them the materials. They had a group picture taken and also sent Christmas greetings. We quote in part a letter recently received:

Venterspost Sunday School
P.O. Box 15
Westonaria, Transvaal
4 November, 1953

Dear Mrs. Bates:

Greetings! I wish to thank you very much for the good work which your Sunday School children are doing for the African children. Books and other things of interest are all received through Miss Corrine Nordquest of the American Board Mission, Johannesburg from whom my children and that of other districts get them. Oh, they are of vital importance for the school work. This kind of work has shown them that those children, though thousands of miles away from Africa have interest for the African people and have taken them to heart.

My school has more than 100 children and I think you will be surprised to learn that I am the only teacher. . . . However, I believe that God will help me for with him everything is possible. . . . My children have written a few letters to your children and hope these will be read without difficulties. . . . We shall always pray to Almighty God to keep us safe and lead us from the darkness but we believe we are not still in darkness. May God also bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Eric M. Nyirenda

Food For India

Mrs. S. R. Hawes, Wichita Fairmount, reports that the Primary chil-

dren sent their money to buy food for India and to one of the centers at Delmo.

"A Love Tree"

Children and parents of Topeka Central met for a covered dish supper and Candlelighting service December 20. The various departments made decorations for the dining room which were placed on tables and windows. Unwrapped gifts of toys, children's clothing and story books were brought for children in East Harlem Parish, New York. Members of the Pilgrim Fellowship helped hang the gifts on the tree and led the group in singing Christmas Carols. Santa Claus made his appearance prior to the traditional Candlelighting Service in the sanctuary.

Ottawa All-Church Festival

At least 150 people attended the Family Thanksgiving Festival held in connection with the Sunday Church Service and dinner November 22. The entire service was based on the All-Church Project "Thanks Be To God For Our Church" in the Fall Program Manual. Following the first part of the regular worship service instead of the sermon every department in the church school expressed their thanks through sharing some of the work in their classes. The pre-nursery thanked the church for their newly decorated room and new toys; Kindergarten listened to a story and sang a song. Primaries through choric speech gave Psalm 100. Lower Juniors gave a picture portrayal of important historical events using a time line. Upper Juniors showed the growth of the church through a flannel-graph illustration. Others participated in a similar way. The Coffee Class, a parent's group, using the Parent's Class material in the Program Manual, told through an interview by Mr. Duke Cheney, how the church is helping its families. One of the members of the Berean Class (over 60 years) told about Martin Luther. A service of dedication led by the Rev. William Berger followed the class presentations. The Festival dinner was in charge of Mrs. Henry Schmitz and Mrs. E. S. Bennett. Tables were decorated with paper turkies (made by some of the children). A hostess presided at each table. Ottawa has been using the family festivals as suggested in the Program Manual for the past year.

—Reported by Martin Brockway

Extended Sessions at Garden City

The Christian education program at Community Church has been augmented this year by Saturday classes for children from 2nd through 7th grades. The possibility of doing this arose when the children's choirs changed their rehearsal schedule from after school hours to Saturday morning, While the older group is in class the younger group has choir rehearsal. Then for the next hour the procedure is reversed. They meet at 10:30 A.M. The materials used for the classes are the Friendship Press books on the theme of "Work and Worship in the Church Around the World". Primaries and Lower Juniors have been studying "The Round Window" and Upper Juniors "Many Hands in Many Lands." The courses do not take the place of church school, nor of the confirmation classes commonly held in Community Church for children of sixth and seventh grades. They offer new material in churchmanship and in the world wide church. The pastor assists the teachers in the classes, especially in instructing the children in the work of the local church and its worship.

Oliver Starcke - Bud Stubbs
Prairie Village

Colonial Church Minute Men Do Man-sized Jobs

The recent addition to the Colonial Church in Prairie Cillage was received from the contractor with the interior unfinished. The men of the church painted the interior walls of the parlor, kitchenette and cloak room, and laid asphalt tile on the floors. The men in charge of the project were Oliver Starcke and Bud Stubbs, who may be seen in the above picture. Oliver is wielding the paint roller and Bud is scratching an eyebrow. As soon as the Colonial Ladies finish with their Bazaar, the men will continue their labors and finish painting the ground-level rooms.

Another big job the men have accomplished is the successful completion of the Every-Member-Canvass. Eighty-five men went out calling on the other member families of the church. At the conclusion of the afternoon of November 8th, two-thirds of the families had pledged over $20,000.00. At the present time, 147 pledges equal $23,000.00. The Operating Budget for 1954 includes the sum of $12,125 for home expenses, $2,205 for benevolences and $5,772 for debt-servicing. The new addition to the church will be paid for with the exception of a small short-term loan of about $2,000.00.

The highly successful Every-Member-Canvass was directed by Gene Mills and Charlie Brackett. The theme was the idea of proportionate giving, and the pledge-calculater was widely used. In all likelihood, when the congregation holds its annual business meeting in January, the Church will vote to cancel its last year of mission subsidy.

—C. Fosberg Hughes, Minister

Christmas At Topeka Seaman

The calendar at Seaman has been filled with varied events of the season. The Women's Guild had their party and installation of 1954 officers and contributed to a Kindergarten Chair fund instead of gift exchange. Youth groups partied in Fellowship Hall with its huge fireplace and ceiling high tree. Cub Scouts, some 62, gave their program for parents and filled a Christmas basket. Seaman High School music groups presented the 25th Vesper on the 15th. Christmas Sunday included a lovely morning worship and in the evening the Chancel Choir presented its Christmas Musical in the candle-lighted sanctuary. Later in Fellowship Hall, they sang the Fred Waring arrangement of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas". A delightful time of fellowship followed.

Thanksgiving Guests

At the home of the Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Bartter of McPherson over the Thanksgiving holiday were: Albert Faurot of China, Japan and the Phillipines, Toshihivo Takami of Japan and Doane Coloege and Chang Hsiu-Ming of Formosa and Bethany College.

Grant Mortgage Paid

Hutchinson Church recently sent a check for $1,906.95 to the Church Building Society as final payment on their grant mortgage.

The Charles Holbrook Library
Pacific School of Religion
1708 Scenic Ave.
Berkeley 9, Calif.

The New Year

I am the New Year, and I come to
you pure and unstained,
Fresh from the hand of God.
Each day a precious pearl to you is
given
That you must string upon the silver
thread of Life.
Once strung can never be unthreaded
but stays
An undying record of your faith and
skill . . .
I give to you, free and unstinted,
twelve glorious months
Of soothing rain and sunshine
golden;
The days for work and rest, the nights
for peaceful slumber.
All that I have I give with love
unspoken.
All that I ask — you keep the faith
unbroken.
—J. D. Templeton

La Foret Pastsor's School

To the illustrious names of Allen Wehrli, Nels Ferre, Wilhelm Pauck, Richard Niebuhr, Albert Outler, Hugh Vernon White, Julian Hartt, Kendrick Grobel, Ralph Woodward, Edmund Linn, Ernest Muehl, Clyde Yarbough, Mary DeNio, will be added next July 7 to August 4th at the Western Pastors' School at La Foret, that of Walter Marshall Horton of the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. The Board of Home Missions covers expenses for the month and transportation expense above $15.00. Write Conference Office of interested. Dates: July 7 - Aug. 4.

Litany For The New Year

Leader: Came into my heart with love.
Group: And the quiet of Thy way.
Leader: Make me to know the power
of thee.
Group: Through every living day.
Leader: Forgive the wrong I thought
or did
Group: Remove it far away.
Leader: Forgive the thing I did not
do
Group: The thing I did not dare.
Leader: Bring to my life abiding joy
Group: And Thy unbounded care.
Leader: That I may live and work in
Thee
Group: And ever grow more fair.
Leader: The depth of love, the quiet
mind
Group: Ever come from Thee.
Leader: Give me the hope and faith
I need
Group: Now Thine own to be.
Leader: And make me worthy by Thy
light
Group: To live eternally.
—Dr. Geraldine Hammond,
Wichita Fairmount

Honor Roll

Added to the Church Loan Fund Honor Roll is our Sedgwick Church with a Declaration of Purpose for $200.00.